IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A display device comprising:

a display surface portion comprising a light emitting area on which a plurality of light emitting elements are located with spaces therebetween, said spaces defining a nonluminous area on which a nonluminous image is located and visible without the light emitting elements;

emission means for selectively causing at least one of the light emitting elements to emit light for displaying a luminous image on the display surface portion; ~~and~~

means for sensing illumination density on the display surface portion; and

a timer for generating a power supply start signal at a first predetermined time and a power supply stop signal at a second predetermined time, wherein

said emission means comprises:

means for starting to supply power to said at least one of the light emitting elements when the power supply start signal is generated by the timer;

means for stopping supplying power to said at least one of the light emitting elements when the power supply stop signal is generated by the timer;

means for switching off power to said at least one of the light emitting elements when, while power is supplied to said at least one of the light emitting elements according to the power supply start signal from the timer, the sensed illumination density being larger than a predetermined threshold illumination density; and

means for switching on power to said at least one light emitting element when, while no power is supplied to said at least one of the light emitting elements as a result of control caused by the power supply stop signal from the timer, the sensed illumination density ~~is~~ being smaller than a predetermined threshold illumination density~~, and for switching off power to said at least one light emitting element when the sensed illumination density is larger than the predetermined threshold illumination density~~.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The display device according to claim 1, further comprising a device body on which the light emitting elements are located, wherein

said display surface portion comprises a front panel having a plurality of through holes, said front panel being attached to the device body so that the through holes align with respective emitting elements, and said front panel defines said nonluminous area.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The display device according to claim 1, further comprising a device body on which the light emitting elements are located,

wherein said display surface portion comprises a front panel having a plurality of through holes, said front panel being attached to the device body so that the through holes align with respective light emitting elements, and a transparent

layer is located on the front panel, said transparent layer defining said nonluminous area.

7. (Previously Presented) The display device according to claim 6, wherein said nonluminous image on the nonluminous area of the transparent layer comprises transparent coloring matter.

8. (Previously Presented) The display device according to claim 4, wherein said device body comprises supporting members for fixedly supporting the light emitting elements, and

said front panel is attached to the supporting members of the device body so that the through holes are aligned with respective light emitting elements.

9. (Previously Presented) The display device according to claim 1, wherein each of said light emitting elements is a light emitting diode.